

**AMALGAMATED CONSERVATION SOCIETY**  
**1101 MUNRO STREET, VICTORIA, B.C., V9A 5P2**

REPRESENTING THE ANGLING COMMUNITY OF SOUTHERN VANCOUVER ISLAND

April 10, 2023

Rebecca Reid,  
Regional Director General,  
DFO Pacific Region

Thank you for your reply (via Neil Davis, Regional Director Fisheries Management) of March 02 to the ACS letter of February 06 concerning the restructuring and realignment of the Sport Fishing Advisory Board and the local Sport Fishing Advisory Committees.

The Amalgamated Conservation Society is very disappointed with the new direction this change will bring about. We do not feel that the position of both DFO and the SFAB will result in a change for the better.

The ACS continues to be concerned about the diminished presence of primary angler representation on the Sport Fishing Advisory Board and especially with the SFAB executive. The secondary (commercial) sector seems to dominate in contradiction of the original Terms of Reference of the SFAB which has stood the test of time and gained the trust of individual 'tin boat' anglers.

In your reply of March 02, it is noted that "... recreational fisheries on southern Vancouver Island have evolved and grown over recent decades." The ACS believes that this is not true. Angler effort and catch have plummeted over the past several decades. Statistics prove this out. One only has to check out local boat launch and angler boat moorage facilities to see the precipitous decline in effort around southern Vancouver Island.

The reallocation of our catch to another user group has been accomplished by the plethora of restrictions on our Chinook fishery over many years. These include, but are not limited to, reduced annual limit from 20 to 10 (without consultation), four month retention closure from April through July, reduced daily limits and maximum size restrictions and closed areas under the guise of protecting Southern Resident Killer Whales (SRKW) whose population is stable.

Yours truly,

Wayne Zaccarelli,  
Secretary-Treasurer, ACS

cc. Martin Paish, Chair, Sport Fishing Advisory Board  
Mark Frisson, South Coast Recreational Fisheries Manager  
Neil Davis, Regional Director, Fisheries Management

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